



McARTHUR:

THURSDAY, MARCH 11, 1859.

Sale of the Ohio Canals.

There is a bill now before the Legislature authorizing the sale of the Ohio canals. The reports of the Canal Commissioners show that the excess of expenditures over receipts for the past three years amounts to the sum of \$102,495 25. It is evident that during this period the Canals have not paid expenses, and it is high time that something should be done to stop the drain upon the Treasury. We believe the public works will pay if rightly managed, but whether they will ever yield much of a revenue to the State under the present state of affairs is extremely doubtful. They have been a prolific source of trouble in one way or another for years past. Corruption and mismanagement have frequently been charged upon the persons having them under control, and they have also created dissensions in the ranks of both political parties, dividing them into canal and anti-canal factions. The democracy of the State have suffered not a little from the intrigues of the Canal Dynasty, and we believe they generally favor selling the canals at a fair price. They do not favor giving them away, nor hurrying the sale in such a manner as to prevent a fair opportunity for receiving bids. If the public works, upon which the State has expended millions of dollars, must be sold, let the sale be conducted in such a way that the purchasers shall obtain them through a fair and world-wide competition, at a sum not less than a just minimum fixed by the Legislature, and let the rights of the people be well guarded.

The Republican press is just now very busy in propagating numerous falsehoods about Kansas matters, one of which is that Senator Green, and a majority of the committee on territories, declare that, as the Lecompton constitution provides that after the year 1864 it may be changed in a particular manner, it is out of the people's power to change it before that time. We have both the report of the committee and the speech of Senator Green, and in neither do we find any such declaration. On the contrary, Mr. G. distinctly says that the people of Kansas may, at any time, proceed to reform their constitution, the Legislature having first authorized a convention to assemble for that purpose. We quote his own words: "I will illustrate. Some constitutions say two thirds of each House, at two successive sessions, may make changes in the constitution. If the governing power undertakes to make a change, they must have two-thirds of each House at two successive sessions, to comply with the constitution; but, while this may be the mode in which the government may change itself, the Legislature can pass a law, at the instance of the people, saying the people may elect members to a convention representing themselves, and make their own constitution in their own way. This original right is clear and indisputable, when I state it in this way." So much for Senator Green's opinion. Now, the hypocrisy of those who circulate the falsehood above exposed is made palpable when we remember that the Topeka Constitution, which the whole republican party approved, declared that it should not be changed until 1865! When that document was before the last Congress not a republican spoke in disapproval of this clause, which aimed to tie up the hands of the people until eleven years had elapsed.

The Indiana Republican State Convention has endorsed Douglas' position on the Kansas question, and at the same time reaffirmed the doctrine that Congress has power to govern the territories!

The New York Tribune urges republicans to vote for the re-election of the anti-Lecompton Democrats.—Is this a bid for votes against Lecompton?

War in the Camp—"Honest Jacob Blickensderfer" the Cause!

The Portsmouth Tribune of Friday last comes to hand with a column article headed, "An insult to the Republicans of Southern Ohio by a Republican Board of Public Works!" It seems that Mr. John B. Gregory, a man of unexceptionable character and ability, and a Republican, has held the office of Resident Engineer on the Ohio Canal. A few days since he was removed and "Honest" Jacob Blickensderfer, who had been out of office only fifteen days, and who had been repudiated by the people by 10,000 votes, appointed in his place. Of course all parties at Portsmouth are indignant, and they have good cause to be. If Jacob don't get a hot reception there, we very much mistake the sentiment of the people.

Senator Clark, a dispatch from Washington says, will move an amendment to the Kansas bill, admitting Kansas on condition that the power to amend the constitution be expressly reserved to the people whenever they see proper, and that neither its admission with the Lecompton Constitution, nor the constitution itself shall be so construed or have force to revive or re-enact, after the admission, any law or regulation repealed by the territorial Legislature before the passage of this act, without the re-enactment of the State Legislature of Kansas, after its admission.

Pretty Good.

The venerable republican Senator, Mr. Collamer, in speaking of Kansas, declared that the prospect of a mass there in 1854-5, had a tendency to induce emigration of bad and reckless men from all parts of the country, and to illustrate he related an anecdote, thus:

There was, indeed, a great deal of truth in the remark of the man who was journeying through Arkansas before we acquired Texas, with his family and cart. He was asked, "where are you going?" "To Texas," "What for?" "To settle on land." "Well," said the Arkansas man, "there is land enough here; it is all around you; you can have as much as you want." That was rather a poser. Various views were started, until the man, finding himself much cornered, at last came to the point: "I am going," said he, "where I can fight for my rights."

The republican central committees of several States are to assemble at Washington, shortly, to take into consideration the generally dilapidated condition of the republican party—perhaps to head off "popular sovereignty," and, perhaps, to form an alliance with it. Who knows?

The Public Lands.

We agree with the sentiments of the following preamble and resolutions, introduced into the Legislature by Mr. Leete, of Lawrence:

Whereas, The accumulation of large bodies of lands in the hands of individuals or of corporations, is unfavorable to a wholesome development of the industrial and social interests of the people, and is violative of their rights; And whereas, The public lands of the United States are rapidly passing into the hands of railroad companies and speculators, thereby defeating the earlier policy of the federal government to furnish lands to actual settlers at a low price; therefore

1. Resolved, by the General Assembly of the State of Ohio, That our Senators in Congress are hereby instructed, and our Representatives requested to vote against any further grants of the public lands of the United States, to States, territories or corporations for railroad purposes.

2. To initiate and support such legislation as will confine all such sales of the said lands to actual settlers only, in such quantities as Congress may prescribe.

3. To vote for and sustain the principle of the "Homestead Bill" now pending in the Congress of the United States, introduced into that body by the Hon. Andrew Johnson, of Tennessee.

4. That the Governor of this State forthwith forward certified copies of the foregoing resolutions to our Senators and Representatives in Congress.

Mr. Paine moved that the resolutions be laid on the table and printed. Agreed to.

OUR FEDERAL RELATIONS.—Mr. Brooke, of Hamilton, yesterday, read a report from the Committee on Federal Relations, reviewing those parts of the Governor's message relating to this subject. It was severe upon the Governor—so much so that, to weaken its effect, Mr. Van Vorhes undertook to ridicule the report by offering a resolution authorizing the Governor to withdraw those passages of his message criticised by the committee.

The Democrats took Mr. V. V. at his word and passed the resolution! Perhaps there wasn't fluttering then in the republican flock!—Statesman.

The Fishing Season—Efforts of the Republican Party to Keep up the Kansas Agitation.

WASHINGTON, March 1.

The first day of spring is warm and pleasant. The sober trees in the Capital yard are beginning to bud out, although no "appropriation" has been made for their relief. Never, in the memory of the most venerable inhabitant of this region, has there been such a mild winter. The shad fishery is commencing earlier than usual, and in a few days the shores of the Potomac will resound with the songs of the fishing gangs as they haul their heavy seines. The advent of shad and herring is an annual season of rejoicing all along the Atlantic coast, especially on the bays and rivers, whose shores are resettled by planters. The Potomac River, from Washington clear down to Chesapeake Bay, is full of fine fishing grounds, which are every season used by the proprietors, or rented for handsome prices by the speculators. These fishing grounds are a great source of revenue to the planters along the Potomac shore.

To-day the great and final debate on the Lecompton Constitution commences in the Senate. The thorough manner in which Pennsylvania has endorsed the President has had the effect of encouraging the Keystone members who were shaky on Lecompton. They begin to think that their condition is all sound at home; that they will be endorsed by their constituents, and are therefore disposed to aid in settling the Kansas question by admitting the State with her constitution, which may be instantly altered if the citizens desire it. It is undoubtedly the intention of the Republicans to keep in agitation the affairs of Kansas until 1860, in order to make one more fight for the Presidency. They are putting forth every possible effort, publicly and privately, writing letters and sending documents from this city into all parts of the North and West, urging upon the leading men in those sections not to relax their vigilance or zeal in keeping the public mind agitated. A Republican member informed me, a few days since, that over two hundred thousand copies of speeches and documents had been sent to New Hampshire to influence the elections about to take place in that State, to say nothing of the large cash contributions which are being forwarded almost every week. It is deemed very important that the Republican party should make a heavy gain in New Hampshire, in order to encourage the "friends of freedom" all over the country. The rivalry between Seward and Hale has assumed a serious aspect in the Republican ranks, and it is probable that the former gentleman will, by some diplomatic argument on the Lecompton Constitution, seek to head off Mr. Hale, who is drumming to his support all the ultra men of his party. The more sagacious of the Republicans see that they cannot afford to lose Seward, whose subtle calculation and extraordinary political foresight have been of such momentous service to his party in all past campaigns.—This morning both the Senate and House galleries are crowded with spectators, the Senate especially, and hundreds of ladies and gentlemen are compelled to leave without obtaining entrance. The previous question will not be called in the Senate until every Senator who wishes to speak has had an ample opportunity to do so. C.

Kansas in the Senate—Mr. Green, of Missouri, &c., &c.

WASHINGTON, March 2.

The Kansas debate yesterday, in the Senate, was opened by Mr. Green, the talented Senator from Missouri, who is one of the few men in the Senate capable of contending against Mr. Douglas with any exhibition of success. Mr. Green has an acute, vigorous and logical cast of mind, which admirably fits him for a debater. No weak point in the argument of his adversary is unnoticed. He sits like a statue while his opponent is speaking, with not a movement of the muscles of his stern countenance, which is a true index of his strong, firm and almost resistless spirit. Three or four years of Senatorial experience will make him one of the strongest men on the floor. He spoke in favor of the immediate admission of Minnesota and Kansas. As to Minnesota, her right to immediate admission is unquestioned. In fact, she is essentially a State at this very moment, having complied with the terms of her enabling act, and her Senators now claim their seats. The Committee on the Judiciary, to whom was referred the case of General Shields, are said to be almost a unit upon the opinion that he is rightfully entitled to a seat, and will so report; but, the determination to keep out Minnesota until Kansas is admitted will prevent Messrs. Shields and Rice from obtaining their seats, although they are *de facto* members of the Senate.

WASHINGTON, March 3.

The sentiment prevails in private circles, that the Senate vote upon the bill for an increase of the army does not indicate a purpose to thwart the recommendations of the Administration. The President does not indorse that sentiment, or rather argues, in view of the pressing necessity, that the delay caused thereby is equivalent to a rejection. The turn which matters have taken has only tended to

stimulate the Administration to more prompt and energetic action; nothing will be left undone to strengthen our noble little army in Utah, and avert the disasters and privations which delay would entail upon it. Simultaneously with the defeat of the bill, the Department received from Colonel Johnston an official report depicting precisely the state of things as related by the President in his message to Congress, and the urgent necessity of promptness and vigor in carrying out his requests. The Department, with a very commendable alacrity, have already arranged to forward supplies, and to do all things also calculated to ward off any inconveniences and disasters to our army.

If anything more is needed to stimulate the National Democratic party to a pacification and speedy adjustment of the now complicated question, they have only to look at the inconsistencies of the Abolition party. In a conversation with a prominent Abolitionist, he frankly told me that his party put no value upon the Kansas admission with the Lecompton Constitution; that, if necessary, to so admit her, enough of his friends would, at the proper time, be found not voting, so as to insure the passage of Lecompton. He said that Lecompton was his hobby; and if rejected, it was material for them, and if admitted under Lecompton, it was still material for them. What duplicity and perfidy in view of their continually howling about bleeding Kansas!

The Topeka rebellionists, with crazy Jim Lane at their head, have notified General Whitfield to leave his post of duty, and threaten assassination if he fails to comply. The Utah rebellionists, with Brigham Young, have issued a similar edict to Government officials in that Territory. *Par noble fratrum!* The Utah Legislature, with unblushing effrontery, pass a resolution that "no person appointed to office for Utah, by the present Administration, shall either qualify for, or assume and discharge, within the limits of this Territory, the functions of the office," &c.

Now, if such usurpation and rebellion does not call for a speedy and effectual interposition of Executive authority, no contingency can arise that would.

The President has before him a large number of applications for appointment to office in the North-west. He seems to "hasten the appointments very slowly." It can be very readily accounted for; Kansas is first, last and always; and all things else must wait till Kansas is out of the way.

As is the case with appointments, so with the Ohio contested election case. The committee is ready with their report, and it is generally conceded that the House, with the evidence before them, are ready to give Mr. Vallandigham the seat to which he is entitled; but I am satisfied that some time will yet elapse before final action will take place.

A brief survey of Washington journalism is now amusing, if nothing more. The *Union*, though ostensibly under the editorship and proprietorship of William A. Harris, is notoriously the property of another, and edited by several writers, and William A. Harris is not included in the list. I learn that a change is soon to take place in the figure head. The *States*, while professing to be an ardent Administration paper, is, nevertheless, a very violent opponent of the Lecompton measure; however, I don't hear that the *States* has been excommunicated.

Plug-Uglyism, or, what is the same thing, rowdyism, burglary, riots and murders reign supreme in our midst, and in almost every case the participants escape detection. It is dangerous to walk our streets after night.

A bill for the reorganization of the various employes of Congress has been introduced in that body; while there is no disposition among the members to curtail the compensation below a proper scale, there is a determined purpose on the part of Congress to pass an act to arrange the number, and class all, so that no confusion and misunderstandings may arise hereafter. I understand that the Committee of Accounts have been very much annoyed by the clamorous appeals of parties employed without any authority of law, and consequently without any fund from which to pay them. It is to avert in future this derangement growing out of the employment of supernumeraries without sanction of law, that the bill has been introduced.

The several investigating committees of Congress are all at work; the tariff investigating Committee find that the evidence of Mr. Geo. Ashmun conflicts materially with that of the contumacious Mr. Walcott. Mr. Ashmun swears that he got money from Mr. Walcott to aid in adjusting the tariff, and Mr. Walcott swears that none of the money was used for such purpose. It will, doubtless, resolve itself into this—that Mr. Walcott enlisted others to act for him.

All the excitement which so suddenly sprang up at the arrest of Gen. Walker has subsided, and "is in the deep bosom of the ocean buried."

The Administration are more confident than ever before of the acquiescence of Congress in their Kansas policy. The question is substantially settled.

Notwithstanding the arguments of the "heavy, Hale" New Hampshire

Senator, and the anathemas and denunciations of the "Natick Cobbler," added to the prayers and exhortations of Father Beecher and his three thousand pulpit allies, the hand-writing is on the wall, and bleeding Kansas will have its wounds healed without the aid of such hypocritical quacks. II.—*Cor. Cincinnati Enquirer.*

Legislative Summary.

The Senate yesterday was principally occupied in Committee of the Whole on Mr. Hatch's sub treasury bill, discussing, amending and perfecting the same.

In the House, Mr. Harrison, (Republican) introduced a resolution authorizing the people to vote for or against a Convention to revise the State Constitution, which resolution was tabled by a large majority. Resolutions were offered authorizing an investigation into the late embezzlement from the Ohio Treasury and the over-issue of notes of the Canal Bank of Cleveland, and were laid on the table to be printed. The usual miscellaneous business was transacted but no bills were passed.—*Statesman*, 2d inst.

The Senate, yesterday, indefinitely postponed the bill introduced by Mr. Winans, explanatory of the act of 1856, relating to the use of the jails of the State for the confinement of fugitives from justice. The most of the day was spent in Committee of the Whole on Mr. Hatch's Sub Treasury bill.

The House passed the bill authorizing the Governor to deed a certain piece of land to Susan Adams. A large number of bills took their second readings, when the House went into Committee of the Whole for the consideration of the bill amendatory of the attachment law and one or two others.—*Id.* 3d.

The Senate yesterday indefinitely postponed the House bill making it the duty of the Clerks of Common Pleas Courts to record papers in certain cases therein named; and passed the following bills, viz: that supplementary to the Justices' act of 1853; that creating the office and fixing the compensation of messenger of the Supreme Court of Ohio; the House bill of Mr. Dohmeyer, relative to the appointment and duties of Notaries Public. A bill was introduced to regulate Insurance Companies in this State. A special Committee was instructed to report a bill for the semi-annual collection of taxes. In the House the bill abolishing the office of County Infirmary Director and transferring its duties to County Commissioners, was indefinitely postponed. The bill amending the present law of dower so as to provide that the widow shall be dowerable in the lands held by her husband, at his decease, in fee, reversion or remainder, passed the House. The Militia bill was under consideration in the afternoon, but no definite action was had thereon. The evening was devoted to an exhibition of the attainments of pupils in the Blind Asylum.—*Id.* 4th.

A bill was introduced into the Senate yesterday, by Mr. Phelps, to provide for the appointment of Commissioners to examine into the condition of the late defalcation therein, the transaction between the State and the Ohio Life Insurance and Trust Company, and for other purposes. A resolution that the General Assembly adjourn *sine die* on the 17th of March, was offered by Mr. Winans and laid on the table. The following bill passed the Senate, viz: the House bill relative to admission and practice of Attorneys-at-Law, the same having been considerably amended since it came from the House; the bill to regulate marriages—it having been so amended as to take effect on the first of October next; the bill to amend the act of March 5, 1831, regulating fees of officers in civil and criminal cases; and the House bill amending sections 531 and 532 of the code.

The House concurred in Senate amendments to the bill concerning Notaries Public. The following bills passed the House, viz: That amendatory of the Homestead Law; that authorizing the examination of Banking Corporations in certain cases; that authorizing the Governor to issue a deed in a certain case therein named. Considerable discussion was had in Committee of the Whole House upon the bill introduced by Mr. Edson, to further secure land titles, which was defeated; a motion to reconsider was made and laid on the table.—*Id.* 5th.

The Senate, yesterday, was occupied during the most of the day, in Committee of the Whole, on various bills. The bill amending the law of April 14, 1854, relative to the publication of the Ohio Reports; and the bill amendatory of section 182 of the Justices act of March 14, 1853, were indefinitely postponed.

The House agreed to Senate amendments to the bill regulating admission and practice of Attorneys at law. Mr. Hubbell's bill supplementary to the Justices' act of March 14, 1814, and Mr. Miles' bill supplementary to the Justices' act of March 14, 1853, were indefinitely postponed. The following bills passed the House, viz: that supplementary to the act to encourage organization of Fire Companies; the bill repealing the act for registration of births, marriages and deaths, passed April 8, 1856; the bill to amend the 9th section of the act of March 14,

1831, providing for the sale of lands forfeited to the State; the bill supplementary to the act incorporating the Piqua and St. Mary's Turnpike Road Company; the bill making partial appropriations for the repair of Public Works for 1858; and the bill amending the act of April 16, 1852, to regulate the sale of School lands and surrender of permanent leases.—*Id.* 6th.

The Sub-Treasury—Specie vs. Paper.

The Sub-Treasury Bill of Mr. Hatch occupied the attention of the Committee of the whole Senate, during a large portion of yesterday. An animated discussion transpired between Senators Phelps, Langdon, Schleich, Hatch, Westcott, Thomas and Kincaid, upon the collection of taxes in gold and silver. The bill provides for gradually throwing out the paper of all banks, in collection of the public revenue. Mr. Langdon proposed to leave the question of receiving the taxes, whether in specie or paper, open; prohibiting the treasurers from paying out anything but coin, which that Senator supported, on the ground that while it would not prevent the officer from receiving paper, which he could conveniently convert into specie, it would more rapidly tend to bring the whole operations of the treasury to the specie standard. Mr. Thomas united in these views, but they were opposed by Senators, Phelps, Hatch, Schleich and Westcott, who apprehended too sudden a transition from the present policy, and consequent inconvenience to the people. Messrs. Phelps, Schleich and others avowed themselves in favor of approximating the specie rule, but thought there was danger of causing distress to the people by adopting measures productive of too quick a change. The argument prevailed in the Committee, and the proposition was voted down.

The Sub-Treasury is one of the great measures of the session, and will require much deliberation. We observe that the Republican Senators so far are silent on this question, apparently willing to give it over to the exclusive care of the majority. Sensible conclusion!—*Statesman*, Tuesday, March 2.

From Washington.

WASHINGTON, March 8.

A messenger has arrived from Kansas, bringing with him the journal of the Lecompton Convention, and the evidence taken before Commissioners to examine into the alleged frauds in Kansas, at the elections held on the 21st of December and the 4th of Jan. The documents are voluminous.

It is said that the investigation reduces the legal vote at the former election to about 2,500, whereas it was heretofore stated to be 6,795.

The majority and the two minority reports of the House Kansas Investigating Committee, will, it is supposed, be submitted this week.

Calvin J. Cracker, of Portland, Me., formerly Assistant Surveyor in Lander's Pacific Railroad Expedition, died suddenly in this city last night. He leaves a family living at Portland.

The Senate was two hours and a half in Executive session on the nomination of Cook, Postmaster at Chicago. An earnest debate ensued, but no question was taken in consequence of the absence of a quorum.

John Cochrane to-day presented in the House, a petition for a bankrupt law, numerous signed by the merchants of New York; also three petitions for a homestead law from merchants and brokers to the amount of three hundred and fifty.

Freeman Hunt, widely known as the editor and proprietor of *Hunt's Merchants' Magazine*, died on Tuesday night, at eleven o'clock, at his residence, on the corner of President and Clinton-streets, Brooklyn. His disease was an affection of the liver, coupled with general debility. Mr. Hunt was pre-eminently a self-made man. He originated and executed the plans which have given him a reputation as a writer upon commercial affairs, and which redounded to his success in material prosperity. He was born in Quincy, Massachusetts, in March, 1804, and was consequently fifty-four years of age at the time of his death.

The Washington correspondent of the Boston Post says:

The talk about removing the army from Kansas before her admission as a State is perfectly futile, because in the present condition of things there is as much danger of rapine, murder and destruction of property, from the branch of Mormon Danites, headed by Jim Lane, in Kansas, as from those headed by Brigham Young, at Salt Lake. The two leaders are no doubt in concert, and the moment the troops should leave Kansas for Utah, Lane's Danites would unquestionably begin a civil war there, which would be far worse in its effects than anything that would happen at Salt Lake.

EXTRAVAGANCE IN WASHINGTON.—At lady Napier's late ball, the wife of the Count de Sartiges, wore diamonds to the amount of several thousands of dollars. The lace robes worn by Mrs. Matthews, of Alabama, cost \$3,000. Mrs. Gwinn, of California, also wore a robe of Honiton lace, valued, with its decorations, at \$2,500. The dress worn by Lady Napier cost nearly the same figure.